THE TECH

VOL. XXVIII. No. 61 BOSTON, MASS., FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1909 PRICE THREE CENTS

CIVIL ENGINEERS HEAR METCALF

Gave Much Valuable Advice About Contract and Day Labor

MANY CHARTS SHOWN

Trip to Quebec During Junior Week to Study Failure Of Quebec Bridge

Wednesday afternoon Mr. Leonard Metcalf, 1892, spoke on municipal improvements. Sewage and water supply were his chief topics.

Mr. Metcalf has been connected with the finance committee investigations in this city, and while making investigations he studied the municipal improvement question thoroughly. His lecture was supplemented with charts which showed the condensed results of his studies both here and elsewhere.

The first part of his talk Mr. Metcalf gave over to advice concerning contracts. The test contract, in general, is one which has been bid on in open competition. It is advisable, he said, in municipal work to award the contract to the lowest bidder, and to protect the city from incompetent contractors by demanding a large bond. In no case should any contract be awarded which has not had competitive bids. This practice, Mr. Metcalf said, is one of the most dangerous, to all concerned, that ever arises in modern municipal problems.

Labor problems, the most difficult that a municipal engineer ever has to face, were next touched upon. Mr. Metcalf contrasted day labor and that done by contractors. He spoke upon this phase of the municipal improvement, paying particular attention to the economic side. The principle arguments of the advocates of day labor are: first the saving to the city of the contractor's profits, second, the utilization of home labor, and lastly the prevention of the evil of a contractor, who uses lower grade materials in order to make profit. Of these arguments the first two are easily answered, all the saving of contractor's profits are overbalanced by the loss due to unskilled labor, and home labor is not only unskilled, but is often labor absolutely unfitted for the position it occupies. The last argument is the only one that would hold water, but all the advantages obtained from it would be easily outweighed by the defects in the system. "It is advocated," said Mr. Metcalf, "principally by politicians and labor unions."

Contract labor, on the other hand, while having distinct disadvantages also has some great advantages. The principle one being that of knowing how the cost is increasing.

The economical side of the time systems were contrasted and from the results obtained in several parallel cases, the day labor cost from twice to three times that done by contract.

Depreciation of efficiency was shown by comparing the cost of ditch digging for sewers since 1895 the efficiency for the same amount of money has fallen to one-half what it was previous to that date. Mr. Metcalf laid this directly at the door of organized labor and politics. He said in closing: "Labor unions instead of increasing the efficiency of labor by shorter hours and higher pay, have decreased it greatly. The waste of time is the same, and since men work for shorter hours, the percentage loss in efficiency is greater."

L. D. Nisbet 1909, closed the meeting ing with the announcement that the next talk to be given would be by Dean Burton, on the summer school. A trip to Quebec for the purpose of studying the Quebec bridge failure will be made during Junior week. It will probably last about five days. If enough men go, reduced rates can be obtained from the railroad, which would bring the entire trip within the neighborhood of $35.

FIVE MEN HIT BY THE POINT SYSTEM

Allen, Whitaker, Finnie are Among Those Affected By the Rating

SYSTEM BEGINS WORK

Nisbet Presents Resolutions On Wearing of Hats and Lounging

Five men were required to drop offices on account of the point system at a meeting of the Institute Committee yesterday afternoon. They are R. H. Allen 1909, member of the Executive Committee of the Institute Committee, and a principal in the Tech Show, 14 points; H. E. Whitaker 1909, M. I. T. A. A., vice-president of Electrical Engineering Society, Advisory Council M. I. T. A. A., Senior Portfolio Committee, 13 points; J. I. Finnie 1909, chairman of Union Dining Room Committee, and principal in Tech Show, 15 points; D. R. Stevens 1911, Institute Committee and assoociate editor of the Tech, 12 points, and O. B. Denison 1911, chorus Tech Show, and associate editor of the Tech, 11 points.

Beside these men it was recommended that C. J. Belden 1909, and A. Campbell 1912, both principals in the Tech Show and members of the Institute Committee be required to obtain a leave of absence from the Institute Committee until after the Tech Show season.

A recommendation that the manager of the Track team may be a member of the M. I. T. A. A. Advisory Council, with the latter office to count as one point in this case, was passed over until another meeting, as it was thought that the matter needed further investigation.

In accordance with a motion passed at the last meeting L. D. Nisbet 1909 presented the following resolutions appertaining to the wearing of hats in the Union living room:

Whereas, It has pleased the Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to give to the students of the said Institution a new Union, and

Whereas, The students have expressed their thanks to the said corporation for the Union, and

Whereas, The students have resolved that "By their actions at all times they will show their appreciation for said Union," and

Whereas, It is the opinion of the Institute Committee that the students are not living up to their resolve. Be it

Resolved, By said committee, to request the students to show a deeper reverance for the Union, viz., removal of hats in the living room, refraining from unsightly lounging and otherwise giving the Union the appearance of a lobby, and it is further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be printed in the Tech, and if it becomes necessary be spread upon the walls of the Union.

It was reported that the matter of sanitation in the Institute buildings had been referred to Bursar Rand and that plans are being considered for the betterment of the ventilation in the Union.

A motion was passed providing for the printing of a number of circulars containing the point system ratings, together with a description of the Institute Committee and what it has done, these circulars to be distributed among the undergraduates and the incoming freshman class.

D. R. Stevens 1911 resigned his position on the committee on account of the point system.

Mr. O. L. Peabody, one of the assistants in the technical analysis laboratory, has resigned to take a position with the Forbes Lithograph Company of Revere, Mass. Mr. J. R. Nichols 1908, has been appointed to take the place of Mr. Peabody for this year.

LANGENBECK TALKS TO CHEM SOCIETY

Authority on Pottery Tells Of the Methods of Manufacture

CERAMICS THE SUBJECT

Nominations for Officers of the Society are Received Dinner in April

At the meeting of the Chemical Society, held last Wednesday evening at the Union, Dr. Karl Langenbeck spoke on Ceramics. Dr. Langenbeck is an authority upon this subject, having studied in Germany, at both Zurich and Berlin. He was formerly superintendent of the Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, and has been consulting chemist and manager of several potteries, tile and mosaic works. He is also the originator of "Rookwood" faience and aventurine glazes.

Dr. Langenbeck opened his talk by pointing out the large future for chemists in the ceramic industries. The broad and general chemical education gives the student an open and originative mind, which is not generally possessed by the graduate of the ceramic course offered by some of the colleges. The graduate of the ceramics course is more apt to become interested in the heavier clay industries, such as brick-making, than in the finer pottery work requiring more skill.

The term ceramic involves the fixing of the clay product by fire. Mere moulding is only a fictile art. The ceramic industry is exceedingly wide in scope, including, at one extreme, the making of common building brick, and, at the other, the manufacture of expensive decorative pottery.

The advance in decorative ceramics has always depended less upon purely technical ideals than upon aesthetic taste. In the eighteenth century, when the Portugese brought to Europe white porcelain from China, white porcelain became the fad; and when Blucher discovered the secret of the Orient, his discovery was considered to be of the greatest importance. Now, white porcelain is thought to be too glaring, and pigments are added to the pottery. Other prejudices were for plasticity and for smoothness of grain, but experience has shown that some portion of coarse, rocky material improves the pottery. In fact, very good pottery may be made from ordinary mud.

Technical invention has played a more important part in developing the building brick industry. To solve the main problem—economy of fuel—Hoffman invented a series of kilns, so arranged that the heat given off from one kiln is utilized in the next. This system is much in use in England, but the cost of construction of these kilns has prevented their extensive adoption in America.

In order to glaze the clay, silicates of alkaline earths and alumina are added to the clay. When the clay is baked, a very thin layer of glass gathers upon the surface of the pottery. This glaze may be transparent or rendered opaque by the addition of tin oxide to the silicates. If the co-efficients of expansion of the pottery and of the glaze differ perceptibly, either crazing (cracking of

(Continued on page 3.)

A. A. GOULD PRESIDENT

At a meeting Wednesday noon, the Newton High School Club elected the following new officers: President, A. A. Gould, 1910; Secretary, M. C. Sherman, 1910 and Treasurer, J. Fuller, 1911.

A new constitution was adopted and the members present signed this and also paid their yearly dues.

A committee was appointed to arrange for the annual dinner the second week in April, at which the retiring president, F. M. Green, 1909, will act as toastmaster.

EARTH IS SLOWLY LOOSING WATER

Professor Percival Lowell Speaks at Fifth Lecture

PROGRESS OF ICE CAP

Development of Ice Cap and the Drying up of Earth Talk Of the Afternoon

Professor Percival Lowell at the fifth lecture on the "Evolution of Worlds" spoke on the sun-sustained stage of a planet's history.

There were two stages of the development of the earth, the first stage being the time when the earth was covered with clouds and the second stage being the time after the clouds had cleared up and the sun began to act as a source of heat.

During the first stage the seasons were all in one, there was no summer or winter, the day was like to the night except that the nights were somewhat darker than the days. After the clearing of the clouds from the sky the seasons began and the difference between day and night became marked.

During the beginning of this second stage of evolution the earth was being slowly cooled off, and as the water on the earth cooled life began, first by fishes, and then as the earth itself cooled the fishes developed into amphibious creatures, which finally developed into reptiles of immense sizes. Following the start of animal life on the earth, trees of a fern-like nature began to grow, and the same trees are represented in the public gardens today by the larches.

The sun's heat now became a factor in the development of the earth and the study of the amount of heat which reaches the earth, and the way in which it is regulated is important. The fact that the air is very important in the regulation of the amount of heat which reaches the earth has not been known to many people, not even to geologists.

In the study of heat on planets it has been discovered that the air shuts off two-thirds of the heat which comes from the sun. Astronomers have been mistaken in regard to the moon and the planet Mars in believing that only a small amount of heat reached those planets, as has been thought. The temperature of the moon at the noon hour is about 350 degrees above zero, and at night 350 degrees below zero, and Mars is as hot as the earth.

The cause of the ice cap is another point in the discussion of the development of the earth, and the real reason of the ice cap has finally been attributed to increased precipitation of snow during the winter and remaining over into the summer. An increased precipitation on temporally elevated ground, with each of these elevated points as a center of development, was the manner of the progress of the ice cap, with the ice proceeding towards the north pole instead of from it, as was formerly supposed.

Finally, the earth is drying up, and will follow the way of the moon and

(Continued on page 3.)

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 26.

8 P. M.—Union night.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27.

1 P. M.—Hockey team elects captain.
2.30 P. M.—Track work at Field.
8 P. M.—Finals—Intercollegiate fencing at New York.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28.

6.45 P. M.—Dr. A. P. Fitch at Y. M. C. A. meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 28.

3 P. M.—Track work at Field.

THE TECH

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Editorial Staff.

H. I. PEARL 1910 — *Editor-in-Chief*
R. H. RANGER 1911 — *Managing Editor*
W. D. GREEN 1909 — *Societies Editor*
H. M. DAVIS 1911 — *Institute Editor*
J. N. STEPHENSON 1909 — *Athletic Editor*

G. B. FORRISTALL 1911 — *Business Manager*
N. DEFOREST 1911 — *Asst. Business Manager*
D. N. FRAZIER 1911 — *Circulation Manager*

Friday Staff

D. R. STEVENS 1911 — *Associate Editor*
J. I. MURRAY 1912 — *News*
S. C. NEFF 1912 — *Business*

All communications regarding advertisements should be addressed to the Business Manager. Regarding subscriptions address the Circulation Manager.

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Subscription - - - $1.50 per year in advance. Single Copies 3 Cents.

Printed by Old Colony Press, Boston.

Friday, March 26, 1909.

Have you signed up for Technique?

"One of the best of the profession is head of the department of geology of the Institute."

In view of the fact that it is only by private subscription that the relay team is able to go to Philadelphia everyone should contribute his share. The team made good indoors and will probably win at Pennsylvania. Everyone help.

To those who are not exceeding the point system limit, the Tech would recommend the consideration of the column advertisement on page four of this issue. A chance to get some more points and do as much as your neighbor! If you are alive, or want to show that you are, you will connect yourself with some Tech activity. The Tech at present offers the most attractive apportunities to every one that will make a try. Whatever you do, talk over the matter with the business manager or managing editor, and do it now.

The Tech learns from a former chase captain that the hare and hounds runs this spring have been better attended than in any previous spring season. This is the kind of work and enthusiasm that will turn out a winning track team this supring and develop a championship cross country team next fall. Tech nology should not be contented with striving for second place in any branch of athletics with the first-rate material available any more than Technology should be considered second in any branch of science. The inter-course race to be held April 3 is more than a practice run, it is direct preparation for the track team and the first preliminary run of the cross country team of next fall. Now is the time to get in shape and begin working for that "T."

TECH'S NEW STORE

Attention is called to the fact that Technology now has another addition to its list of student supply shops. Charles J. S. Rudolf, formerly of Park Square, has opened a shop directly opposite Roger's, which is called the Tech Tog Shop, and is decorated in Red and Gray. A complete and up-to-date line of young men's furnishings is carried, including shirts, collars, neckwear, gloves, hats, caps and umbrellas.

TECHNIQUE TRIAL IS NOT TO OCCUR

Clifford C. Hield Receives Summons But is Now Freed of Charge

INJUNCTION TAKEN OFF

Technique will be Published This Year as Formerly

An injunction aganst the publication of Technique, 1910, by some member of the junior class who felt that a story of detrimental character concerning him was to have place in the grind department, has been removed, and Technique will be published this year as formerly.

The members of Course II were greatly aroused some ten days ago when a summons to appear in the Massachusetts court of equity was served by a deputy sheriff on Clifford C. Hield, the grind editor of Technique. Hield was required to appear this morning at the court of equity in a hearing on the injuntion on the accusation of L. B. Crist, attorney for the plaintiff.

Technique immediately retained as attorney Homer Albers, known to Institute juniors for his lectures on business law, and it looked as though the matter might come to formal trial. It was feared by some that even if the injunction against publication was not granted. Technique might be seriously delayed by a demand that certain parts of the grind department be eliminated.

The whole matter was satisfactorily settled, however, when the plaintiff yesterday withdrew the injunction. Accordingly, there will be no hearing on Technique at the Court House this morning, and unless further complications arise, the annual will appear in Junior Week as originally planned.

BREYER IS PRESIDENT

Will Head Mining Engineers For The Coming Year

At the meeting of the Mining Engineering Society held last evening at the Union, the following officers were elected: President, R. S. Breyer 1910; vice-president and treasurer, B. S. Wohlgemuth 1910; secretary, J. L. McAllen 1911.

A. E. Burt 1909, spoke on mining in Cobalt, Ontario, and illustrated his talk with a number of samples of ore. He told in an interesting manner of how Technology men ran the mines during the strike. Mr. Burt said that students should not go out to work in mines with the idea that they know it all. The men who have been on the job for a long period of time are not likely to stand for that sort of an attitude.

The second speaker of the evening was Mr. Cansell, who has been at work in Southern British Columbia on the Canadian Geological Survey.

He showed some excellent views of the Cascade Mountains, and told of the very heavy ore deposits of Headly, B. C. He said that the mine here was one of the richest gold mines in Canada, and last year had an output of half a million dollars.

Dr. Robert S. Wood, president of the Carnegie Institution addressed the regular meeting of the Society of Arts last night. He described the foundation of the Institution by Andrew Carnegie, its organization and purposes and the various lines of investigation which are being pursued under its direction.

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83 NEWBURY STREET, BOSTON

The Review aims to develop closer relations among Institute men and to stimulate their interest in the work of the College. It is in no sense an engineering magazine, but deals broadly with the problems of Technological Education and the responsibilities of the professional man.

THE REVIEW is published during January, April, July, and October. Communications should be addressed to The TECHNOLOGY REVIEW, 83 Newbury St., Boston.

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HARE AND HOUNDS RUN

Plans of Coming Intercourse Run Assignment of Captains

On Saturday there will be a Hare and Hounds run over the Needham course. This course is comparatively new, and is a very good one. Capt. Jacobs 1910, who has been over it a few times, considers it as one of the best hereabouts. The men are to meet at the Back Bay station, and will take the 2.16 train. Arrangements have been made to have a special car for the accommodation of the runners. The round trip fare will be only thirty cents, and a large attendance is desired.

Plans are already under way for the Intercourse race, to be held on April 3. The race will be over the regular course, and promises to be the best in years. The following is the assignment of course captains: E. Jacobs 1910, I and XI; C. P. Eldred 1911, II and VI; J. N. Stephenson 1909, V and X; R. Ellis 1909, III, IV, VI, VIII, XII and XIII. All men expecting to run should report at once to their respective course captains. On Monday there will probably be a walk over the course. Notices will be posted later.

Last year the run was won easily by the representatives of course I. There was a high wind, and running was made very difficult. Howland 1908, won easily, and in very near record time.

The run this year will be a preliminary to the Freshman-Sophomore race on April 17th. The Freshmen have quite a few promising men, and expect to give the Sophomores a good race. 1911 won handily last year, and expect to duplicate the victory.

EARTH LOOSING WATER

(Continued from page 1.)

Mars in being planets without water. The drying up of the earth is shown by the increase of deserts and the drying up of seas which were at one time of immense size. The drying up of the earth is not to be taken as a calamity, nevertheless, as the earth is constantly growing to be a better place to live on, and when the time does come, when the earth is really dry, we will not be here to contemplate it.

MORE MEN WANTED

Politics offer great campaigning opportunities, but the Tech has inaugurated a better campaign, that for the positions on the news and business ends of the Tech. Every fellow has an equal chance with his neighbor, and the chances of winning out are better than those in politics, as the competitors will not have to do any bribing of the "bribe takers."

The Business and Managing editors are to be in the Tech office this afternoon to meet all who desire to come out for any of the positions offered.

TALKS ON MOSQUITOES

W. Lyman Underwood, special lecturer to the department of biology, spoke Wednesday to the class in Sanitary Science and Public Health, on the mosquito and its ability to spread disease, malaria fever in particular. As a member of the Belmont Board of Health, Mr. Underwood has had much experience in exterminating the pest in his own town by draining off stagnant water, the application of kerosene, and the stocking of ponds with fish.

LANGENBECK TALKS

(Continued from page 1.)

the glaze) or shivering (crumbling of the clay) may result. The former chemical imperfection is utilized by the Japanese, who craze their ware in artistic patterns.

Dr. Langenbeck's talk was illustrated by a number of specimens which were passed among the audience.

Preceding the evening's talk, nominations for the next term were made, with the following results: For president, George P. Lunt 1910, and R. S. Bicknell 1910; for vice-president, Dudley Clapp 1910; for secretary, R. W. Lewis 1910, and R. R. Taylor 1910; for treasurer, J. R. Bell 1911, and S. H. Lawton 1911. The elections will be announced at the dinner to be held in April.

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FENCING TEAM OFF

In the drizzling rain last night the Fencing team left for New York, two lonely students being there to see them off.

The team had good hopes of coming out well, however, their only fear being that the judges might be prejudiced in favor of the Army, as the Army has been beaten by the same team that Tech won from.

Dr. Walker, Professor of Industrial Chemistry, has been elected chairman of the New England section of the Society of Chemical Industry.

The interscholastic prize drill conducted each year by the freshman class, will take place this year during Prom Week.

NOTICES

NOTICE—A watch has been foound. Inquire at the Bursar's office.

BROOKLINE H. S. CLUB—The meeting which was to have been held tomorrow has been postponed a week.

BULLETIN BOARDS—Will the users of the boards kindly refrain from using glue, and confine themselves to tacks.

HOCKEY TEAM—Meeting in Union at 1 P. M. Saturday. Election of captain for next year. M26

1911 TECHNIQUE—Any men entitled to 1911 Technique Electoral Ballots, and failing to receive them, communicate with the committee through the Cage.

Nominations for a new 1911 representative on the A. A. may be left at the Cage until Saturday. M26

M. E. SOCIETY — All members who are going on the excursion to the General Electric Co. at Lynn will meet in the Scollay Square Subway Station at 1.45 P. M. to take a trolley car for Lynn instead of at the Boston, Revere Beach, and Lynn Station, as previously announced.

1912.—Baseball candidates are to report at the Field every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoon, weather permitting for practice. Practice will start tomorrow afternoon at 3 P. M. Candidates for battery positions must come out on the first practise of the season—Saturday, at 3 P. M. Everybody out.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertisements under this head are inserted at the rate of five cents a line of six words, payable in advance, and copy should be handed to the business manager the morning before publication day.

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Economy is a basis principle of success. So, if you have some second hand books or drawing instruments that you have no further use for, insert a small classified advertisement in THE TECH.

But suppose that you want to find a lost article — just as simple — insert a small lost ad under the classified heading, stating exactly what you have lost. As both those who have and those who want read our classified column, you are bound to get results.

EXAMPLES

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